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BORIS T. PASH

BOX NO. 2

ACCESSION NO. 72033-8.19

(P)

Q-11 Bon's Pass

~~SECRET~~

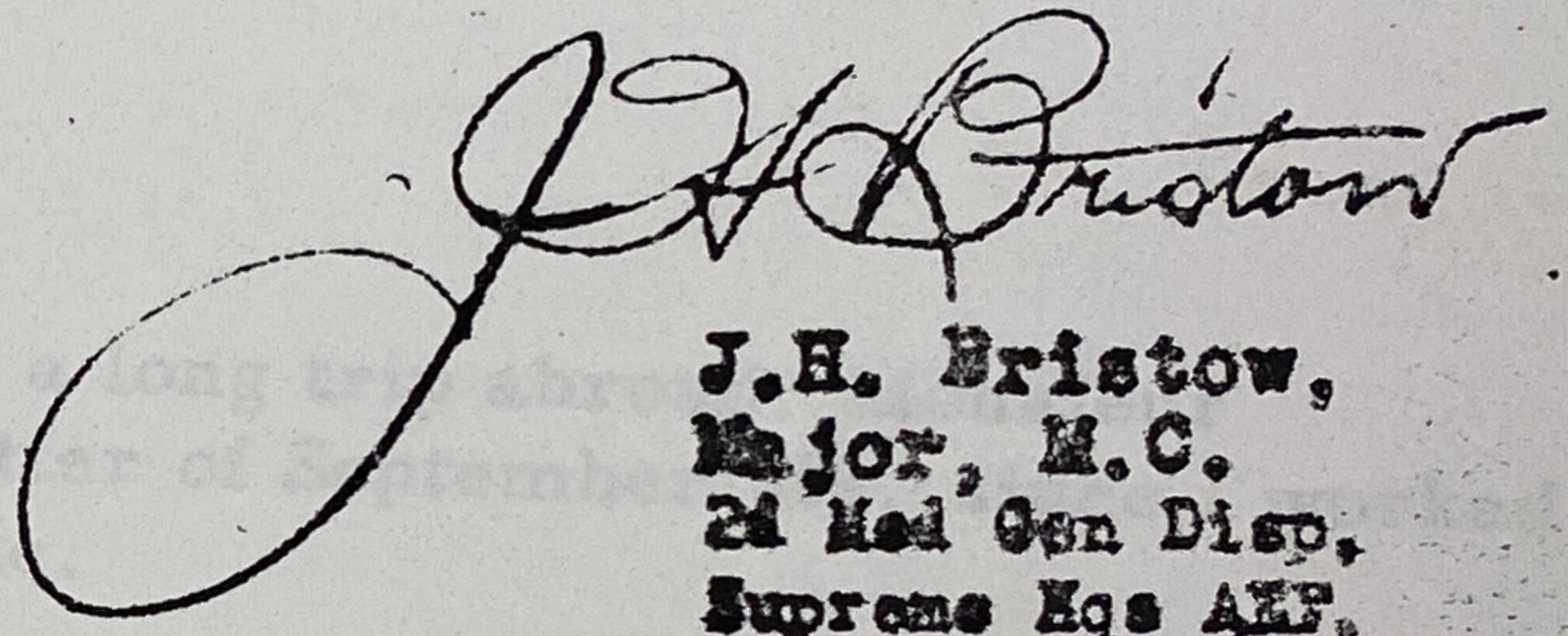
Also Mission
Subject File
Exposure to radioactivity

0 757
5 Jul 45

S T A T E M E N T

It has been brought to my attention by Colonel B.T. Pash, 0275706, that he has been exposed to 300 millicuries of radium within the past 48 hours. This exposure is reported to be at a distance of six inches and for a period of 4 1/2 hours. This officer is not experiencing any untoward effects at present, but wishes this statement to be a matter of record. It is reported to me by Colonel Pash that the exposure was experienced while transporting radium in an official capacity for the United States Army.

The container for the radium which was used in the transportation did not contain lead and so it was felt that no protection from the radium rays was afforded during the time of the transportation of this material.


J.H. Bristow,
Major, M.C.
24 Med Gen Disp.
Supreme Hqs AEF.

1st Ind.
130th Gen. Hosp. ASCZ, ETO, APO 350 U.S. Army 6 July, 1945 HR/pkm

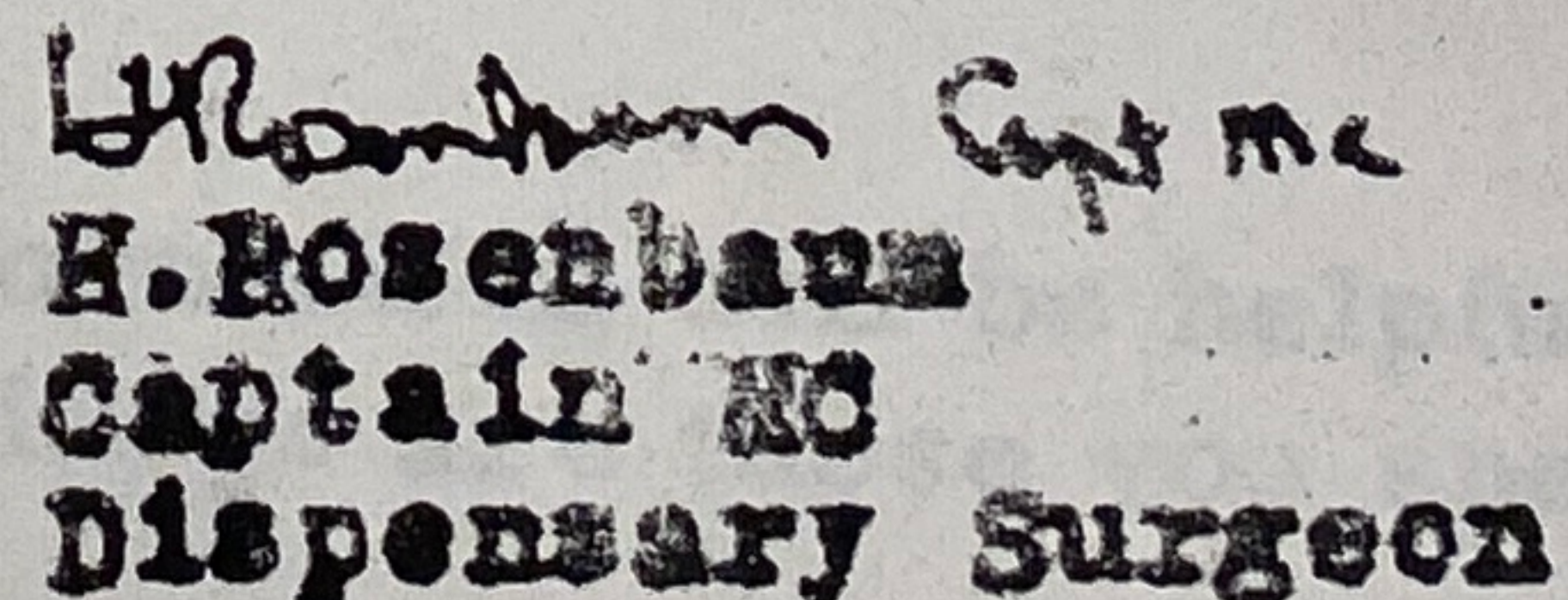
Report of Complete Blood Count taken 4 days after exposure.

RBC 4,780,000
WBC 7,350
HB. 14.5 gr.

Diff:

Segs 58
Lymphs 34
Monos 6
Eosins 2
RBC Morphology Normal on smear

All above findings are within normal limits.


H. Rosenbaum
Captain MC
Dispensary Surgeon

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
PREMIER MINISTRE
COMMISSARIAT A L'ÉNERGIE ATOMIQUE

69, RUE DE VARENNE - PARIS (VII)

ADRESSER LA CORRESPONDANCE
BOITE POSTALE : 307 PARIS-VII

TÉL. : INVALIDES 66-45 A 47
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ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE : ENERGAT-PARIS
TÉLEX : 20.671

PARIS, LE 20 novembre 1959.

Relations Extérieures
MJC/cc 59 - 3411

Mr. Boris PASH
1712 Mulroy Street
McLean. (Va)
Etats-Unis.

Dear Mr. Pash,

Before leaving for a long trip abroad, Monsieur Goldschmidt asked me to answer your letter of September 8th, since I worked myself a long time at the Radium Institute.

The information that we were able to collect is the following one :

On the February 13th, 1946, the Directeur de l'Institut du Radium à Paris received thirteen radioactive standards to be measured. These standards were sent from Germany by Mr. Ralf Osborne, Colonel G.S.C. Chief Fiat (US) 13 APC 757 c/o US FFT US.

At this time the radioactivity of the thirteen standards totalized about 215 millicuries of radium.

Later on the radioactive standards were returned to Germany.

We hope this information will be helpful to you but we actually do not know whether these standards are those you speak about.

Sincerely yours,

M. J. Chavarde

M. J. CHAVARDES.

These items are of German origin & are copies from French Int'l standard, the value of which is not reflected here. The value of latter was indicated to be over 85 mci

HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL ARMY GROUP
Office of the Chief of Staff

11 December 1959

Colonel Boris T. Pash (Retd)
Quartermaster Intelligence Agency
Room 1417 Tempo B
United States Army
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Colonel Pash:

I was pleased to receive your letter of 3 December but very sorry to hear of your eye surgery. I hope, needless to say, that this operation ends any future troubles you might have of that type.

As I recall from memory, you brought the German radium standards into the FLAT Building in Frankfurt on a Saturday afternoon shortly after we had rehabilitated and occupied the present Labor Building, just prior to the Soviet move forward to the present Iron Curtain. As I recall, you brought these standards without their lead casket into the office and left them with Dr. H. P. Robertson, who was then head of my Scientific Section and was also our contact with the ALSOS Mission. Our first reaction was one of some dismay in that you had brought the standards in an open condition close to your body. Dr. Robertson contacted Dr. Rajewsky of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute and described the situation to him. He felt that you had undoubtedly received a large overdose of radium. As I recall, the doctors required that you be periodically tested for a long period.

On our part, our initial action was to obtain a heavy lead casket from the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute (now Max Planck Institute) in Frankfurt, place the vials in the casket and then place the casket in the vault of the Farben Building. Later, I received permission from US Military Government to transfer the standards to the Radium Institute in Paris, which I did in early 1946.

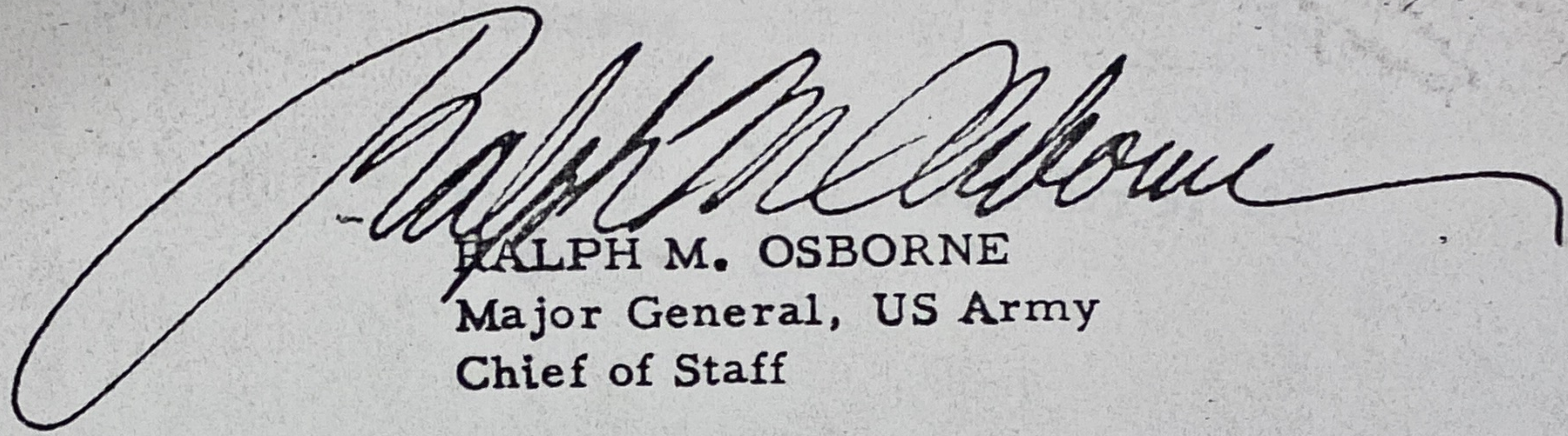
Dr. H. P. Robertson is presently a professor at California Institute of Technology and can affirm and perhaps add to the information I have given above.

I hope the above meets your requirements, but since all records have long since been placed in the records center, I have to search my memory of a number of years back.

Copies

Exposure to radioactivity

Sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ralph M. Osborne', is written over the typed name and title.

RALPH M. OSBORNE

Major General, US Army

Chief of Staff

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PASADENA

NORMAN BRIDGE LABORATORY OF PHYSICS

February 5, 1960

Colonel Boris T. Pash (ret.)
1712 Mulroy
McLean, Virginia

Dear Colonel Pash:

I am indeed sorry to learn that you have had to undergo surgery for your eye condition, but trust that all is now well. I am also sorry to have missed the ALSOS reunion, but hope there will be another opportunity soon.

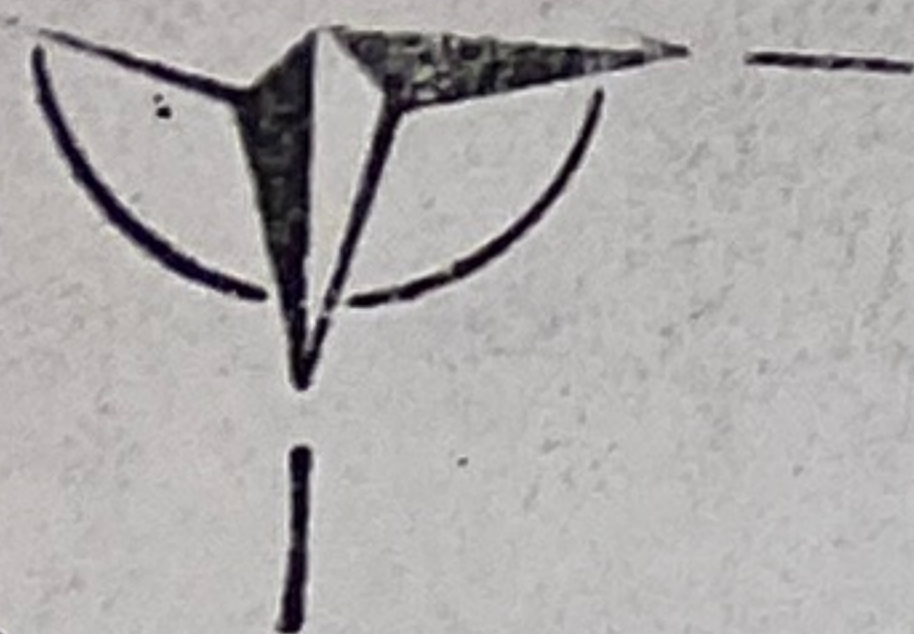
My recollection of the events attending your retrieval of the German radium standards agrees substantially with the account given by General Osborne in his letter to you of 11 December 1959. Two additional points of possible value are 1) our estimate of the total activity of the standards was of the order of 300 millicuries, and 2) you reported at that time bringing them back to Frankfurt in a cardboard carton, of perhaps 1-2 cu. ft. volume next to you in the jeep during the approximately 8-hour trip. The relevant details, including discussions with the German expert Dr. Rajewsky, were handled by Dr. Frederick Seitz of my office in FIAT, who should be able to confirm General Osborne's and my recollections, and perhaps add more. Dr. Seitz is at present Scientific Adviser to NATO and can be addressed at the old NATO Headquarters in the Palais de Chaillot in Paris.

Sincerely yours,

H. P. Robertson

H. P. Robertson
Professor of Mathematical
Physics

HPR:n



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
Place du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny,

~~PALAIS DE CHAMILLON~~

PARIS-XVI

Tél. : KLEber 50-20

18th February 1960

Dear Colonel Pash,

Many thanks for your letter of the 12th February. I had followed your career somewhat indirectly since the end of the war by the usual chance encounters with our old friends. Needless to say I am dreadfully sorry to learn about your cataracts but I am glad that the operations have gone so well. The heavy glasses you will wear are a nuisance but I am sure you will learn to lead a somewhat normal though restricted life with them.

I well recall the circumstances concerning your exposure 1945 since I had just joined G2 of SHEAF after serving for several years with the Manhattan District in Chicago and was tremendously conscious of radiation and its effects. You appeared in the office in Frankfurt with a small unshielded cardboard carton containing an appreciable fraction of a curie of radium after having driven for many hours with the carton quite close to you in your car. Dr. H.P. Robertson and I grasped the hazard of the situation at once and arranged to have all personnel removed as far from the carton as possible.

Following this, I went over to see Professor Rajewsky whom I had come to know as a result of interrogations concerning the German uranium mines and production. I borrowed from him an appropriate lead coffin, or container. Your group then transferred the container to it and then to an appropriate place. A year or two later Professor Rajewsky wrote to me about the container since he was very short of equipment and felt the need of it very much.

Robertson and I advised you to have a thorough medical check-up immediately. You complied with this and found that your blood count underwent the fluctuations one would expect from appreciable exposure.

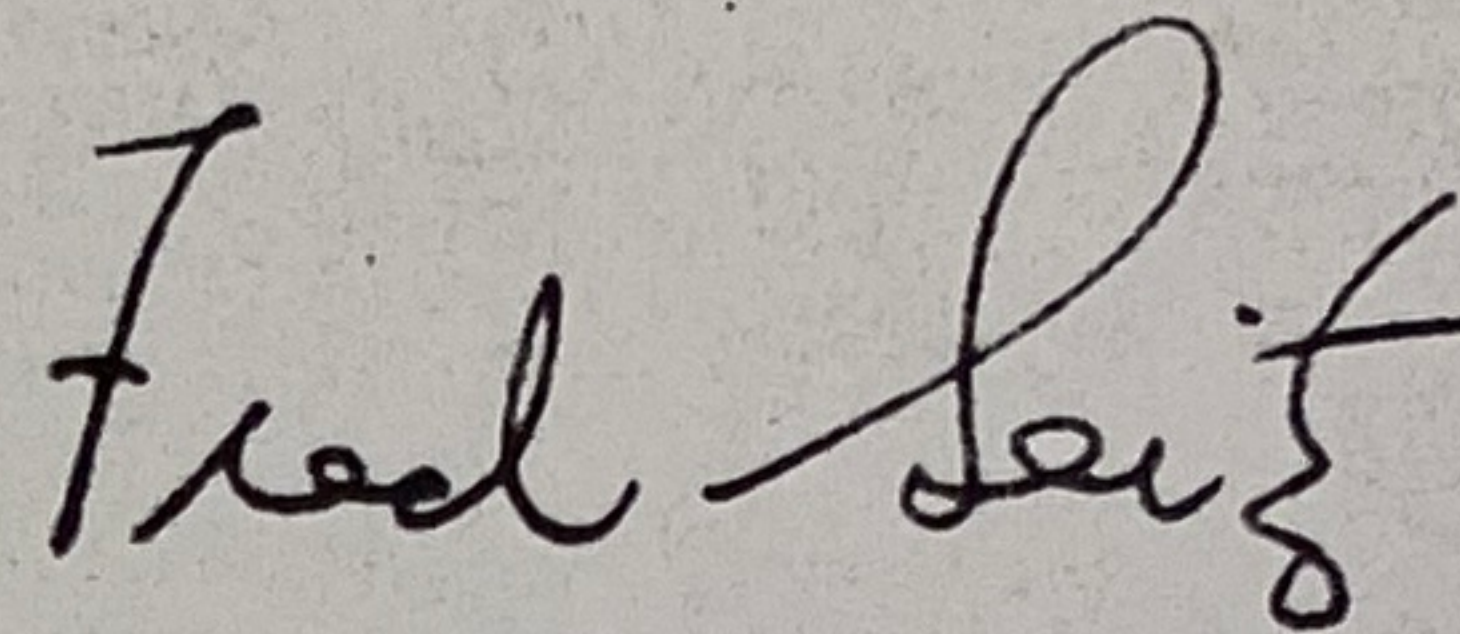
We were all relieved to learn that your life was not in immediate danger although it might well have been. I am not surprised to learn of the cataracts since the integrated experience gained over the last thirty years or so from the scientists and technicians who have been exposed is that the eye lens is exceedingly

Colonel Boris T. Pash,
Quartermaster Intelligence Agency,
U.S. Army,
Washington 25, D.C.

sensitive to radiation. Several of my very good friends who worked around accelerators have contracted the ailment.

I hope to see you in Washington one of these days.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Seitz". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop on the 'F' and a stylized 'S'.

Frederick Seitz